

## REMARKS

### **Rejections of claims 29, 36, 43, 50 and 57 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)**

The Examiner rejected claims 29, 36, 43, 50 and 57 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ishizuka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,226,224). Applicant respectfully disagrees.

It is noted that in order for a section 102(b) reference to be valid as prior art, every element and limitation of the claimed present invention - as literally defined in the claims - must be disclosed within the piece of prior art. See MPEP 2131; *Jamesbury Corp. v. Litton Indus. Products*, 756 F.2d 1556, 225 USPQ 253 (Fed.Cir. 1985); *Atlas Powder Company v. du Pont*, 750 F.2d 1569 (Fed.Cir. 1984); *American Hospital Supply v. Travenol Labs*, 745 F.2d 1 (Fed.Cir. 1984).

With regard to claims 29, 43, and 57, Ishizuka does not teach the method step of “stripping away substantially all of said manufacturing jacket from said stranded cable over the portion of said stranded cable lying between said first termination and said second termination.” While Ishizuka does disclose a method of stripping away an intermediate portion of the sheath of an electrical cable, the portion of the sheath that is removed is very small in comparison to the total length of the sheath (See FIG. 8F). Thus, Ishizuka does not teach the step of “stripping away substantially all of the manufacturing jacket” – a material limitation of the rejected claims.

It is further noted that Ishizuka’s process relies on the presence of the “downstream” non-stripped portion of the sleeve to assist the removal of the intermediate, stripped portion. (See Column 7, line 63 through Column 8, line 23). Accordingly, Ishizuka actually teaches away from Applicant’s method set of “stripping away substantially all of the manufacturing jacket.” Applicant submits that it would therefore be improper to cite Ishizuka as a § 103 reference as

well.

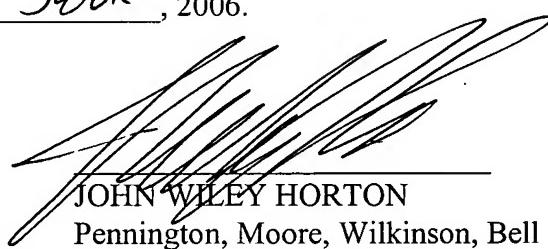
**New claims 88-90**

Applicant has added claims 88-90 which more particularly recites that the jacket is stripped from the strand cable *after* the terminations are attached to the ends of the strand cable. This limitation is supported by Applicant's specification, particularly the Brief Summary of the Invention on Pages 8 to 9. Ishizuka's process involves placing the terminations on the cable after and intermediate portion of the jacket is stripped. (See Column 8 lines 32-63).

**Conclusion**

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant believes that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of July, 2006.



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